

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /043 W

-----230132Z 064489 /73

R 221100Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3363

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1134

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: PFOR, CH, BM

SUBJ: NE WIN TO VISIT CHINA

### SUMMARY

PRESIDENT NE WIN PLANS TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE PRC AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, IT APPEARS THAT NE WIN VIEWS THE TRIP AS MORE THAN A MERE GOODWILL GESTURE. WHILE AWARE OF THE POLITICAL AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS OPERATION ON PEKING, NE WIN PROBABLY FEELS IT IS AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT HIS VISIT MIGHT CATALYZE MOVEMENT BY PRC LEADERS TOWARD SIGNIFICANT CURTAILMENT OF PRC SUPPORT FOR THE BCP INSURGENCY IN BURMA. ECONOMIC ISSUES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. BURMSE PRESS HAS CARRIED A SHORT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT NE WIN ACCOMPANIED BY MADAME NE WIN YADANA NAT MAI WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE PRC IN THE "NEAR FUTURE." THE VISIT IS IN RESPONSE TO A PRC INVITATION. ACCORDING TO SENSITIVE INFORMATION NE WIN WILL BE IN CHINA FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEGINNING IN LATE APRIL. IT IS NOT YET KNOWN IF NE WIN WILL ACCEPT A DPRK INVITATION KEYED TO THE CHINA TRIP.

2. GUB MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS CLAIM THE TRIP IS INTENDED ONLY A A GOODWILL MISSION IN RESPONSE  
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TO A PRC INVITATION. HOWEVER, NE WIN VISITED PEKING AS RECENTLY A NOVEMBER LAST YEAR AND TENG YING-CHAO, WIDOW OF THE LATE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI, PAID A GOODWILL VP IT TO BURMA ONLY LAST FEBRUARY. HENCE, ANOTHER GOODWILL OR PROTOCOL VISIT AT THIS TIME SEEMS UNNECESSARY, AND NE WIN LIKELY HAS THE BCP PROBLEM ON HIS MIND FOR THIS TRIP. DEPARTING AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR R.S. LAURIE, IN PAYING

HIS FAREWELL CALL ON NE WIN EARLIER THIS MONTH FOUND THE PRESIDENT PREOCCUPIED WITH BURMA-PRC RELATIONS, AND LAURIE HAS REPORTED TO CANBERRA THAT NE WIN IS MODERATELY HOPEFUL THAT PRC LEADERS WILL CUT BACK FURTHER THEIR MATERIAL SUPPORT OF THE BCP, THUS LEADING TOWARD A RESOLUTION OF THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM.

3. NE WIN IS PROBABLY A LITTLE LESS SANGUINE NOW THAN HE WAS A FEW WEEKS AGO. MME CHOU EN-LAI'S VISIT LAD SOME BURMESE (NOT NECESSARILY INCLUDING NE WIN) TO HOPE THAT THE PRC MIGHT BE READY TO DUMP THE BCP, WHOSE SUPPORT REFLECTED POLICIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DESCREDITED "GANG OF FOUR". HIGHLY-PLACED GUB MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE REFERRED TO A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN PRC MATERIAL SUPPORT OF THE BCP SINCE ABOUT THE TIME OF THE "GANG'S" PURGE. NE WIN HIMSELF WAS HOPING THAT A REINSTATMENT OF TENG HSIAO-PING WOULD PROVIDE FRIENDLY AUSPICES FOR A LIQUIDATION OF THE BCP PROBLEM. NOW, THE CONTINUED DELAY IN TENG HSIAO-PING'S COMEBACK AND OTHER SIGNS THAT CHINA'S WOODWORK IS TILL FULL OF "GANG"REMANANTS HAVE MODERATED, BUT NOT DESTROYED NE WIN'S OPTIMISM. BESIDES, THERE MAY BE OTHER BUSINESS TO TEND TO. SENSITIVE INFORMATION INDICATES ECONOMIC ISSUES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING CHINESE ASSISTANCE FOR ONSHORE OIL EXPLORATION. OSBORN

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009